

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Due to the absence of Chairperson Tymczyszyn, Vice-Chairperson Gates led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, Fitch, Gates, Haddon, and Rhilinger.

Absent: Chairperson Tymczyszyn.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian.

MOTION: Vice-Chairperson Gates moved to grant Chairperson Tymczyszyn an excused absence for the March 8, 2007 Airport Commission meeting. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Vice-Chairperson Gates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Dingman, seconded by Commissioner Haddon, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner Rhilinger moved for the approval of the February 8, 2007 Airport Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Tymczyszyn and with Commissioner Gates abstaining).

6. ACTION ITEMS

6A. HANGAR WAITING LISTS POLICIES

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided background information about the current format of the Hangar Waiting List approved by City Council in August 1993 as well as the Hangar Tenant Transfer List approved in October 2000. He advised that applicants on both lists are identified by the first five digits of their driver's license

and that the lists are updated monthly and prominently displayed at the General Aviation Center as well as in monthly Airport Commission Reports. He noted that the Commission asked staff to explore the feasibility of displaying full names on the lists and that the City Attorney has advised him that either names or driver's license numbers could legally be displayed. He stated that applicants on both lists were notified about this meeting and that staff recommended that the Commission take no action, leaving both the Hangar Waiting List and Tenant Transfer List policies intact.

In response to Commissioner Rhilinger's inquiries, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian explained that change in waiting list format would need to be forwarded to City Council for approval, that the change in pass-over policies in the Hangar Lease Agreement from one year to two years was because it takes a tenant a significant amount of time to build an airplane, and that an automated data base and continual audits ensure that tenants are in compliance.

Commissioner Rhilinger received clarification from staff that a single tenant could have several hangars but could only be on the Hangar Waiting List once at any given time.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian briefly discussed the fee structure for City hangar rentals by square footage for residents and non-residents established in 2003, noting that the Hangar Waiting List was not indexed with a CPI. He explained that Hangar Waiting Lists are archived for seven or eight years in his office and are available from the City Clerk's Office even longer.

When Commissioner Rhilinger questioned why applicants did not want to have their names posted on the lists, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that this was the first time the issue has come up. He noted that, since the agenda for this meeting was published, his office has received eight telephone calls from applicants who do not want to have their names posted. He stated that staff fears that the posting of names will lend itself to the possibility of subletting hangars.

Commissioner Haddon stated that he has talked to people who were on the Airport Commission and City Council in 1993 and could not find anyone who knew why it was decided to use driver's license numbers.

Vice-Chairperson Gates stated that past Airport administrations have not always followed procedures as closely as the present administration does.

Commissioner Fitch stated that she would not want her name posted on the waiting list for fear that it might be used to her disadvantage.

At 7:30 p.m., Vice-Chairperson Gates welcomed public comments.

John King, 227th Street, stated that applicants' and not corporate names should be used on the lists for clarity, policing, and administration of the lists. He indicated that in the past the Hangar Waiting List has not been administered correctly and that applicants who are placed on the bottom of the list instead of being removed are keeping the list artificially longer than it actually is, thereby increasing demand. He also suggested that the list should be sequential by date and type of hangar.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided clarification that an applicant's full information is kept on file in the office, that applicants are required to show their driver's licenses, and that staff does an annual Hangar Waiting List telephone audit.

Paul Scala, Rancho Palos Verdes, stated that he discovered on March 7, 2006 that he was never put on the Hangar Waiting List when he applied two years ago and paid a \$300 deposit. He took issue with the fact that he is paying electric bills, paying taxes on City property, and was only given back \$225 from his deposit when he took his name off the list. He stated that he was in favor of using names on the waiting and transfer lists.

Ted Stinis, Rancho Palos Verdes, voiced support for the use of names and stated that a system should be implemented that would eliminate any possibility of corruption. He expressed concern that his hangar flooded when it rains and that grading has not been done as promised.

Ed Pierce, Rolling Hills Estates, stated that he was in favor of posting names on waiting lists and questioned if the use of driver's license numbers was a violation of the Brown Act and Freedom of Information Act. He stated that a name associated with a person waiting on the lists would eliminate suspicion of bribery and facilitate self-policing.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian commented that staff was afraid that the use of names would lead to corruption and make it harder to police the list and hangars.

Vice-Chairperson Gates stated that there were improprieties at the Airport in the past but that he was unaware of any lately.

Anne O'Brien, Torrance, stated that she would prefer the use of her name rather than driver's license number in this age of identity theft and that applicants would feel more confident with the use of names.

Steve Gill, Mesa Street, read and entered into record a letter from Chairperson Tymczyszyn dated March 7, 2007 expressing support for the use of names rather than partial driver's license numbers. In the letter he stated that the two main reasons to change the policy is to provide government oversight for potential abuse and to help prevent abuse by the tenant pilots. He suggested adding "clarity where there is confusion and oversight where there is none" and preventing "abuse by government or by tenants while maintaining an open and understandable list."

Michael Wermers, Audrey Avenue, suggested that names of people who receive hangars be placed on the lists.

MOTION: Commissioner Fitch moved to concur with staff recommendation that the Commission take no action, leaving the Hangar Waiting List and Tenant Transfer List policies intact. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 3-3 as follows (absent Chairperson Tymczyszyn):

AYES: Commissioners Adams, Dingman, and Fitch.

NOES: Commissioners Gates, Haddon, and Rhilinger.

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved to change the Hangar Waiting List and Tenant Transfer List policies to replace the use of driver's license numbers with first name initials and last names. Commissioner Rhilinger seconded the motion; the motion passed 4-2 as reflected in the following roll call vote (absent Chairperson Tymczyszyn):

AYES: Commissioners Dingman, Gates, Haddon, and Rhilinger.

NOES: Commissioners Adams and Fitch.

It was confirmed that the intent of the motion was to include the last name, the first initial, and to replace the driver's license digits.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Vice-Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports for March 2007 were included in the agenda material: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, March Meeting Room Schedule, and Hangar Waiting List.

Vice-Chairperson Gates commented that staff was doing a good job of keeping the hangars rented.

7B. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Vice-Chairperson Gates noted that the following reports were included in the agenda material: Events Requiring Emergency Response and Airfield Operations Status.

Vice-Chairperson Gates was pleased to note that operations in February 2007 were higher than in February 2006.

7C. LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT – AERONAUTICAL

Vice-Chairperson Gates noted that the March 1, 2007 Land Management update from Land Management Team Chair Brian Sunshine was included in the agenda material.

In response to Commissioner Haddon's inquiry, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian explained that the third phase of the Flite Park development is east of the tower towards Robinson Helicopter.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

8A. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian announced the March 25, 2007 preview day at the Western Museum of Flight.

8B. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian announced that the U.S. Air Force Woodwind Quartet would be performing at the Armstrong Theatre on March 19, 2007.

8C. Commissioner Fitch stated that she would be absent from the April and May 2007 Commission meetings.

8D. Ted Stinis, Rancho Palos Verdes, stated that the East-T gate does not work when there is moisture in the air and reminded staff that tenants were promised that the taxiways between the T hangars would be graded to prevent flooding. He added that he was pleased to have the Western Museum of Flight at the Airport.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian advised that replacement of the gate is included in the Airport Security Project.

8E. Anne O'Brien offered the suggestion to mark the sides of East-T rows to increase visibility at night, possibly with the names of famous people in aviation history.

Ed Pierce, Rolling Hills Estates, concurred that the use of names or types of aircraft on the hangar rows would be a good idea.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:45 p.m., Commissioner Dingman, seconded by Commissioner Fitch, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., in the West Annex meeting room.

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| Approved as Submitted April 12, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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